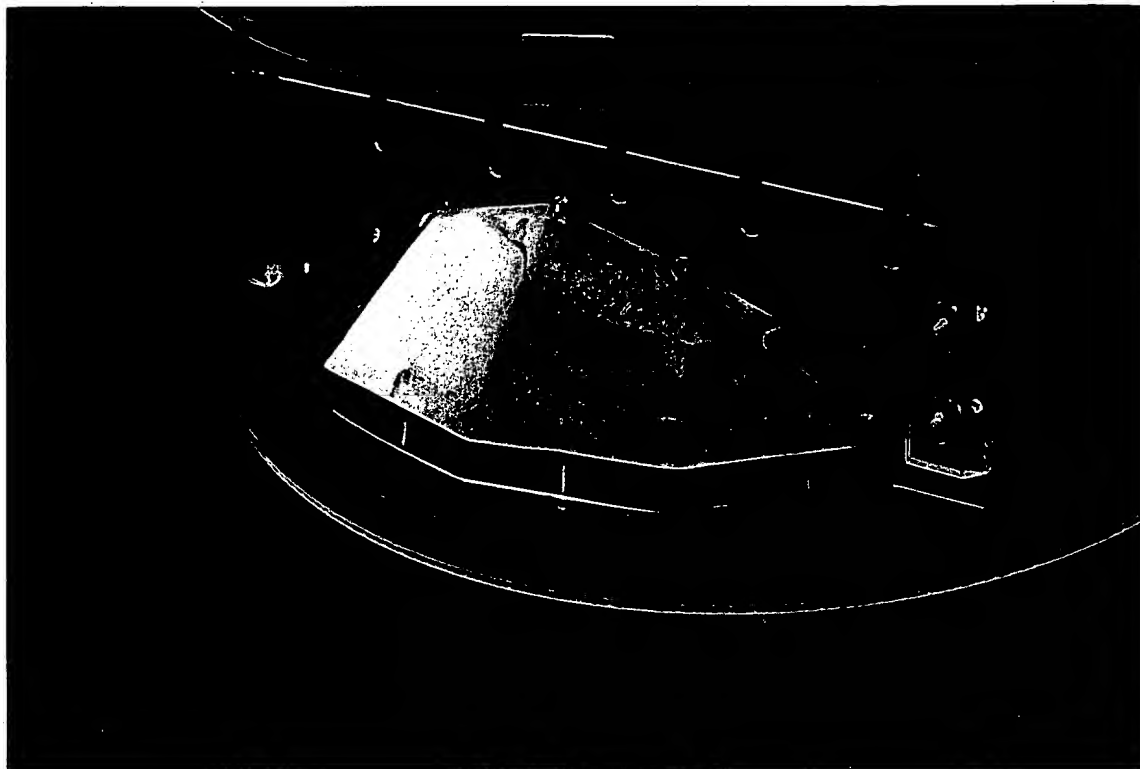
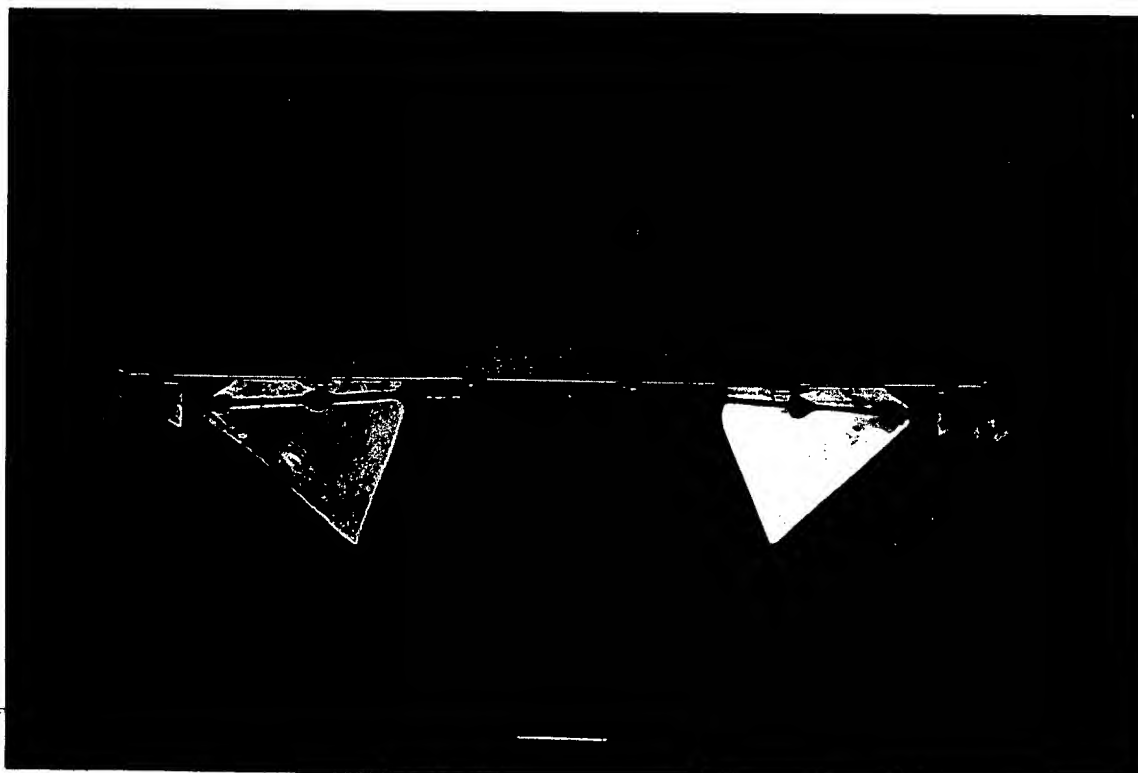


EXHIBIT D

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Photograph 1



Photograph 2



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

NOV 30 1998

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

1021/1117

JENNENS & GILCHRIST  
2750 MOUNTAIN PLACE  
1445 RUSS AVENUE  
DALLAS TX 75202-2799

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP/ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
08/742,819	10/30/96	026	CHIESA, R	1724 11/17/98
First Named Applicant	LEE.			
	35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days			

TITLE OF INVENTION DOWNCOMER FOR CHEMICAL PROCESS TOWER AND METHOD OF FORMING THE SAME (AS AMENDED)

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
1 27771-00171	261-114.100	L63	UTILITY	NO	\$1210.00	02/17/99

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

YOUR COPY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/742,819 10/30/96 LEE

A 27771-00171

EXAMINER

IM21/1117

JENKENS & GILCHRIST  
3200 FOUNTAIN PLACE  
1445 ROSS AVENUE  
DALLAS TX 75202-2799

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

12

DATE MAILED 1724  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

NOV 19 1998

JENKENS & GILCHRIST

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

- ☒ This communication is responsive to the appeal brief filed on Nov. 9, 1998.
- ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1, 3-5, 11-15, 17-19, 21, 23-26, 33-37, 39-42 (to be renumbered 1-26, respectively).
- ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable.

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

- ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

- ☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☒ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftperson.

- ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

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Art Unit: 1724

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1.) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Upon reconsideration in light of applicants' persuasive arguments on pages 7-13 of the brief filed on November 9, 1998, it is agreed that the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest the recited chemical process tower tray or method of forming one having a tray support ring, a tray support region directly above the ring, a downcomer having a semi-circular outlet with a substantially semi-circular inner wall substantially above and directed substantially towards the tray support region in addition to the downcomer having a semi-conical wall which tapers to the substantially semi-circular inner wall.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2.) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard L. Chiesa whose telephone number is (703) 308-3791.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center 1700 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Application/Control Number: 08/742,819

Page 3

Art Unit: 1724

Facsimile correspondence to Art Unit 1724 must be transmitted through (703) 305-7718.  
This number is for Technology Center 1724 correspondence only.

Richard L. Chiesa  
November 13, 1998

*Richard L. Chiesa*

**RICHARD L. CHIESA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 1724**

*Nov. 13, 1998*